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—then, with all the diversity in the vegetable kingdom there actually is, there could be no natural foundation for their classification. The multitude of species would render it necessary to classify them, but the classification would be wholly artificial and arbitrary. The actual constitution of the vegetable kingdom, however, as appears from observation, is that some species resemble each other very closely indeed, others differ as widely as possible, and between these the most numerous and the most various grades of resemblance or difference are presented, but always with a manifest tendency to compose groups or associations of resembling species,—groups the more numerous and apparently the less definite in proportion to the number and the nearness of points of resemblance. These various associations the naturalist endeavors to express, as far as is necessary or practicable, by a series of generalizations, the lower or particular included in the higher or more comprehensive.” pp. 322–323.

§ 337. *Polemonium cæruleum*, L.—A new locality is worth recording of this species, for which the recently published volume of the synoptical Flora of N. A. states but four localities east of the Rocky Mountains. I have met with it in three spots on the elevated (2600–2700 ft.), open glades around Oakland, Garrett Co., Md.

Growing in deep beds of *Sphagnum cymbifolium* and *S. acutifolium*, the stout, branching rhizomes develop numerous villous roots, and large (12–17 inches) leaves. The stems, single or in pairs, attain sometimes the height of 44 inches, overtopping the surrounding sedges (*Eriophorum Virginicum*, *Rhynchospora alba*, *Carex stricta*, &c.) Leaves diminishing to pinnate and simple bracts, leaflets, 7–21, ovate, lanceolate; inflorescence a narrow cymose panicle, composed of corymbose clusters terminating the main stem and the short erect branches (not a thyrsus in the strict sense of that term, as defined by recent writers, the order of development being centrifugal in respect to the primary branches as well as the ultimate clusters); flowers erect, calyx-segments longer than tube of corolla, with spreading tips; seeds 5–21, unequally divided among the cells, usually 4–6 in each, one or two often widely wing-angled and abortive; flowering from last week in June to August.

Our other species, *Polemonium reptans*, L., is also found around Oakland, but in drier and more shaded places on the mountain-sides, and flowers about a month earlier.

JOHN DONNELL SMITH.

§ 338. *An Orchid new to America*.—*Epipactis Helleborine*, var. *viridans*, Irm. (*E. viridiflora*, Reichenb.) as determined by Dr. Gray, was found in the vicinity of Syracuse by Mrs. M. P. Church of the Syracuse Botanical Club, on the 6th of August, during the weekly expedition of the Club to the woods. Mrs. M. O. Rust has kindly sent us specimens. The stem is leafy but no root leaves were found. The roots were fleshy and fascicled. Mrs. Rust writes: “I should judge that there could be no doubt as to the plant’s being indigenous. Its home is right in the woods, the nearest habitation being a small farm-house. It does not grow over any great territory; I should think not more